

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRAVDA ARTICLE EXEMPLIFIES SOVIET MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST
U.S. AFRICA POLICY

REF: A) MOSCOW 14023, B) MOSCOW 13001

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SEPT. 7 PRAVDA "COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" BY
YURIY ZHUKOV CRITICIZES SECRETARY'S ZURICH MEETING WITH SO.
AFRICAN PM VORSTER, CLAIMS THAT U.S. POLICY RISKS RAISING
"NEW, DANGEROUS COMPLICATIONS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND CONCLUDES
THAT, NONETHELESS, NO ONE CAN SUCCEED IN SAVING RACIST SYSTEM."

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END SUMMARY.

2. ASSUME DEPT. HAS FBIS TEXT. EMBASSY SEES IMPORTANCE OF ARTICLE BY VETERAN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ZHUKOV (WHO USUALLY WRITES ON EAST-WEST ISSUES) IN TREND IT CONTINUES AND EXEMPLIFIES OF HOSTILE SOVIET REACTION TO U.S. AFRICA POLICY IN GENERAL AND SECRETARY'S EFFORTS IN PARTICULAR (REF A). ZHUKOV SARCASTICALLY FOLLOWS SECRETARY'S RECENT WORDS ON NEW U.S. INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF "PEACE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, PROSPERITY AND INDEPENDENCE" FOR AFRICA WITH CALL FOR FULFILLMENT OF REPEATED CONDEMNATORY UN RESOLUTIONS ON VORSTER AND SMITH REGIMES.

3. BUT, SAYS ZHUKOV, SECRETARY PREFERS TO CONDUCT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH VORSTER IN ORDER -- ACCORDING TO WESTERN PRESS -- TO PRESERVE POSITION OF RACISTS IN S. AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE NATIVE POPULATION.

4. WHILE "OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S." ARE SILENT ON CONTENTS OF ZURICH MEETING, COMMENTS ZHUKOV, VORSTER IS MORE TALKATIVE--EXCLUDING WIELDING OF PRESSURE ON SMITH REGIME--E.G., BY STOPPING ARMS SUPPLY-- AND LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST S. AFRICA ARE NOT EXPECTED. ZHUKOV CITES POLISH PAPER ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI TO EFFECT THAT S. AFRICA HAS SAME SIGNIFICANCE FOR U.S. IN AFRICA AS DOES ISRAEL IN M.E.

5. "BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO SEE, SAYS ZHUKOV, HOW DANGEROUS THE MANEUVERS OF THE PATRONS OF RACISM ARE." "THOSE WHO OPPOSE ELIMINATION OF INJUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA", CONCLUDES ZHUKOV, "RISK RAISING NEW, DANGEROUS COMPLICATIONS IN THIS REGION, BUT NO ONE WILL SUCCEED IN SAVING THE RACIST SYSTEM."

6. ACTING POL COUNSELOR ASKED USA INSTITUTE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION HEAD TROFIMENKO SEPT 7 WHETHER HE SAW U.S. SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY IN TERMS OF A U.S. GLOBAL STRATEGY DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN AND EXTEND U.S. INFLUENCE IN THIRD WORLD THROUGH SPLITTISM AND USE OF THIRD PARTIES AS PROMOTED BY KUDRYAVTSEV (REF A) AND EXEMPLIFIED AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY ZHUKOV. TROFIMENKO REPLIED THAT WHILE BROAD-GAUGE STRATEGIST LIKE SECRETARY DOUBTLESS HAD LARGE, LONG-TERM PURPOSES IN MIND WHEN HE EMBARKED ON A GIVEN COURSE OF ACTION, HE PERSONALLY SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FIRST OF ALL AS A PROBLEM-SOLVING OPERATION, ALMOST A CARBON COPY OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST APPROACH. ASKED HOW KUDRYAVTSEV CAME TO HIS COMPREHENSIVE BLEAK VIEW, GIVEN THAT HE IS A SERIOUS MAN, TROFIMENKO REPLIED THAT

KUDRYAVTSEV IS INDEED SERIOUS, BUT THAT "GENERATIONAL" FACTORS ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

7. COMMENT. ZHUKOV'S SHARP EDGES MAY HAVE BEEN ROUNDED OFF SOMEWHAT BY "DETENTE", BUT HE IS VERY MUCH OF KUDRYAVTSEV'S GENERATION, WHICH CAME OF AGE UNDER STALIN. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE UNWISE TO EXAGGERATE THE PERVASIVENESS OF THIS TYPE OF THINKING IN THE SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT. SOVIET COVERAGE OF U.S. AFRICA POLICY HAS BECOME PROGRESSIVELY MORE NEGATIVE: SCARCELY A RAY OF LIGHT PENETRATES THE GLOOMY PICTURE OF A POLICY WHICH IS BAD MORALLY, ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY, AND THAT RAY-- THE IDEA THAT THE U.S. CAMPAIGN TO SAVE RACISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS DOOMED BY HISTORY--IS NOT VERY BRIGHT. ZHUKOV'S PRESENTATION OMITTS ONLY ONE MINOR THEME SOUNDED EARLIER, THE SOVIET WARNING ABOUT THE U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH CERTAIN BLACK AFRICAN STATES (REF B), AND CONTINUES THE PERSONAL SNIPING AT THE SECRETARY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THIS COVERAGE SINCE THE BEGINNING. HOWEVER, YOUNGER MEN, LIKE TROFIMENKO, ARE CAPABLE OF A MORE SOPHISTICATED IF NOT MORE HOPEFUL APPROACH. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS WELL TO REMEMBER THAT IF "GENERATIONAL FACTORS" ARE IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING THE SOVIET VIEW, KUDRYAVTSEV AND ZHUKOV HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP THAN TROFIMENKO. STOESEL

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